

From Chapter 2

Champions Understand the Dichotomy of Potential

The Pebble & the Apple Seed

Imagine holding an apple seed in one hand and a pebble in the other. The pebble is living up to its full potential. There is no “Unknown Potential” for the pebble. On its own, the pebble will never grow into a rock, a rock will never grow into a boulder, and a boulder will never grow into a mountain. How is the apple seed different? When you hold an apple seed in your hand, you are “potentially” holding more than just one small apple seed in the palm of your hand. You are “potentially” holding a fruit bearing apple tree; apples that can be baked in an apple pie with melting ice cream streaming down those baked apples (you get the picture). The seeds in that apple potentially can become an apple orchard; an orchard with hundreds of seed bearing apple trees. Consider the “Unknown Potential” of one little apple seed! Better yet, just think about the “Unknown Potential” inside of you! How much fruit do you have the potential to bear?

The Dichotomy of Potential reveals that, along with the lack of potential to grow into anything more, the pebble lacks the potential to disappoint you. It is living up to your full expectations. The apple seed, however, with all of its potential to become a perpetual apple orchard, possesses an equal amount of potential to disappoint you. The virtue of having potential that raises expectations carries with it an equal amount of potential to disappoint; thus raising again the question: “Is potential good or bad?” I believe the answer to that question lies in whether appropriate action is taken at the appropriate time to pursue the fulfillment of potential rather than allow it to remain dormant.